

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 SCI-06 CEQ-02 EPA-04

EB-11 INT-08 AGR-20 PC-15 /186 W

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R 141545Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4665

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 9078

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, AR, PA, UY

SUBJ: UCR TO INTERPOLATE VIGNES

1. SUMMARY: THE UCR MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAVE ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES TO APPEAR AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE TWO TREATIES (UACYRETA-APIPE WITH PARAGUAY AND THE RIVER PLATE BOUNDARY SETTLEMENT WITH URUGUAY) THE GOA HAS RECENTLY SIGNED. THIS HAS GIVEN RISE TO SOME SPECULATION IN PRESS THAT VIGNES MAY BE ON THE WAY OUT-- SPECULATION WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATING ON BASIS OTHER MOTIVES. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, DOES NOT BELIEVE HIS DEPARTURE LIKELY AT THIS TIME AND IN ANY CASE HE WOULD NOT BE LEAVING OVER ISSUE OF THESE TREATIES WHICH HAVE PERON'S FULL SUPPORT. NOR IS IT LIKELY THAT UCR CAN EVEN MAKE THE TREATIES A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE UCR APPARENTLY PLANS TO USE QUESTIONING OF VIGNES AS VEHICLE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR STRONG NATIONALIST STANCE ON THESE TREATIES AND AT THE SAME TIME SHOW THAT GOA WAS TOO FORTHCOMING IN NEGOTIATIONS. ON THE TREATY WITH
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URUGUAY, THE UCR IS EXPECTED TO OBJECT TO PROVISION WHICH REDUCES ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER MARTIN GARCIA

ISLAND. WITH RESPECT TO YACYRETA-APIPE, THEY WILL OBJECT TO ARGENTINE COMPROMISE ON DAM SITE THAT, IN CONTRAST TO FORMER GOA POSITION, WILL RESULT IN INUNDATION OF APPROXIMATELY EQUAL LAND AREAS IN PARAGUAY AND ARGENTINA RATHER THAN HOLDING TO PREVIOUS POSITION WHICH WOULD HAVE INUNDATED SMALLER ARGENTINE AREA AT EXPENSE OF PARAGUAY. COMMENT: WHILE SOME TALK IS HEARD THAT VIGNES MAY BE REPLACED AS FORMIN, SUCH A MOVE SEEMS UNLIKELY AT THIS TIME AND IT WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE BECAUSE OF AN ISSUE ARISING OUT OF THESE TWO TREATIES. BOTH OF THE TREATIES WERE WELL RECEIVED IN ARGENTINA AND BOTH WERE KNOWN TO HAVE PERON'S FULL BACKING. INDEED, PERON ATTENDED THE SIGNING CEREMONY IN URUGUAY AND ONLY MISSED THE CEREMONY IN PARAGUAY DUE TO HIS RELAPSE. FURTHERMORE, PERON LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THE NEGOTIATOR'S COMPROMISES WERE IN RESPONSE TO HIS VIEW THAT THE STICKING POINTS WERE LESS DETRIMENTAL THAN SECURING AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL. THE PUBLIC SEEMS TO AGREE WITH PERON AND UCR EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS AN EFFECTIVE ISSUE SEEM UNLIKELY TO MEET WITH MUCH SUCCESS.

KREBS

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